



McGregor W. Scott

United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
Tel (916) 554-2700
TTY (916) 554-2855

NEWS RELEASE

Fresno
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel (559) 497-4000
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 2007

Contact: Rosemary Shaul (916) 554-2802

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

FIVE PEOPLE INDICTED ON ARMED BANK ROBBERY SERIES

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that a federal grand jury returned an indictment yesterday charging NEAL EDWARD PETERSON, JR., 24, IRVIN GRIFFIN, 20, JAVARIS MARQUEZ TUBBS, 31, MICHAEL WAYNE BLANCHE, 23, and ROBERT ANTHONY MCCLARY, 36, with the robbery and attempted robbery of three different banks in the Eastern District of California.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Sacramento Violent Crimes Task Force, comprised of FBI agents and Sacramento County Sheriff's Department robbery detectives, the Sacramento Police Department, Stockton Police Department, Lodi Police Department, Elk Grove Police Department, and the Chico Police Department.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys William Wong and Jill Thomas, who are prosecuting the case, the indictment charges that PETERSON, GRIFFIN, and TUBBS attempted to rob the Bank of America, 8363 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento, on January 6, 2005. It also charges that PETERSON, TUBBS, and BLANCHE conducted an armed take-over robbery of the Washington Mutual Bank, 1331 Florin Road, Sacramento on January 31, 2005. The indictment further charges that PETERSON and MCCLARY conducted an armed take-over robbery of the Bank of the West, 229 S. Church Street, Lodi, on April 13, 2006.

Each bank robbery charge carries sentences of up to 20 years in jail with possible additional penalties. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

###